

REMARKS

Claims 2, 13-31, 33, 35-38, and 40-48 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 32 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 3-12, 32, 34, and 39 remain pending. Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 2-3 and 33.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-12, 32, 34, and 39 were rejected under 35 USC §102 and claim 7 under 35 USC §103.

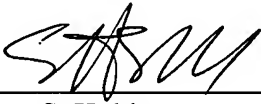
Claims 1 and 32 have been amended to recite the limitations found to be allowable by the Examiner, as indicated in claims 2 and 33, respectively. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable as amended. Claims 3-12 depend from claim 1 and are also believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 32 was also amended to recite the limitations of claim 33, which were found to be allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Additionally, claims 34 and 39 are dependent on claim 32 and are also believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 32.

Based on the foregoing amendments, allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the Applicants' undersigned representative.

DATE: January 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Scott S. Kokka
Registration No. 51,893

Bingham McCutchen LLP
Three Embarcadero Center, Suite 1800
San Francisco, California 94111
Telephone: (650) 849-4906
Telefax: (650) 849-4800